

CLAIMS

The following listing of claims lists all of the pending claims, and supersedes all prior listings, and versions, of claims in this application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A leaf-stripping device, comprising:

a suction blower and leaf-stripping tools arranged in front of the suction blower, the leaf-stripping tools including ~~two~~ a first rotatable cylinder[[s]] and a second rotatable cylinder, wherein the first and second rotatable cylinders are arranged substantially parallel to each other, and wherein the first at least one of the rotatable cylinder[[s]] is being coupled to a drive motor and includes peripheral grooves disposed circumferentially thereon.

- 2 – 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 1, wherein the cylinders are designed so that foliage is separated from a plant, and fruits of the plant are not damaged.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim [[19]]1, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the width and depth of each groove corresponds roughly to the size of a fruit.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 1, wherein the driven first cylinder is made from a plastic so has to have a ~~with a poorly wettable~~ hydrophobic surface.

23. (Currently Amended) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 1, wherein ~~one of the~~ second cylinder[[s]] is not coupled to the motor and is spring-loaded against the ~~other of the~~ first cylinder[[s]].

24. (Currently Amended) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 23, wherein the second cylinder ~~that is not coupled to the motor~~ is supported in a lever mechanism, ~~wherein against which pressure springs bear against the lever mechanism to bias the second cylinder toward the first cylinder for the cylinder bear~~ pressure.

25. (Currently Amended) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 1, wherein the second cylinder ~~that is not coupled to the motor~~ includes an elastic peripheral surface.

26. (Currently Amended) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 25, wherein a peripheral surface of the second cylinder ~~that is not coupled to the motor~~ includes an elastomer.

27. (Currently Amended) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of the~~ second cylinder[[s]] has a ~~foliage stripper wiper~~ mechanism for scraping foliage extending over its length.

28. (Currently Amended) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~two~~ first and second cylinders are aligned substantially vertically and are arranged in a common flow channel with the suction blower.

29. (Currently Amended) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 23, wherein a diameter of the second cylinder ~~that is not coupled to the motor~~ is made smaller than the diameter of the ~~other~~ first cylinder.

30. (Currently Amended) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 18, wherein the first and second ~~two~~ cylinders are spanned partially by a cover plate

arranged on a side facing the foliage that has a cutout with an entry incline for the foliage.

31. (Currently Amended) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 30, wherein the cover plate is fastened to [[the]] a flow channel on a side facing the foliage.

32. (Currently Amended) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 1, further comprising a plurality of pairs of first and second cylinders, arranged one behind the other.

33. (Previously presented) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 1, further comprising means for mounting the device on the front of a vehicle.

34. (Previously presented) A leaf-stripping device according to claim 1, wherein the vehicle is a tractor.

35. (New) A leaf-stripping device, comprising:

a suction blower and leaf-stripping tools arranged in front of the suction blower,

wherein the leaf-stripping tools include a first rotatable cylinder and a second rotatable cylinder, wherein the first and second rotatable cylinders are arranged substantially parallel to each other, and wherein the first rotatable cylinders is coupled to a drive motor; and

wherein the first and second cylinders are spanned partially by a cover plate arranged on a side facing the foliage that has a cutout with an entry incline for the foliage.

36. (New) A leaf-stripping device, comprising:

a suction blower and leaf-stripping tools arranged in front of the suction blower, wherein the leaf-stripping tools include a first rotatable cylinder and a second rotatable cylinder, wherein the first and second rotatable cylinders are arranged substantially parallel to each other, and wherein the first rotatable cylinder is coupled to a drive motor; and wherein the second rotatable cylinder includes an elastic peripheral surface.

37. (New) The leaf stripping device of claim 36, wherein the first rotatable cylinder is made from a plastic so has to have a hydrophobic surface.